

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method for producing a video collage, comprising the steps of:
2 segmenting a video into a plurality of video segments;
3 providing a video collage template having at least one individual video
4 frame;
5 associating a video segment from said plurality of video segments with said
6 individual video frame of said video collage template; and,
7 producing a video collage from said video collage template and said
8 associated video segment.

1 2. The method of Claim 1, wherein said step of associating a video segment
2 from said plurality of video segments includes the steps of:
3 selecting a plurality of video segments from said plurality of video
4 segments; and,
5 associating each of said selected plurality of video segments with a
6 respective individual frame of said video collage.

1 3. The method of Claim 1, wherein said step of associating a video segment
2 from said plurality of video segments includes the steps of:
3 providing a plurality of representative images, wherein each representative
4 image represents one of said plurality of video segments;

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5 selecting a representative image from said plurality of representative
6 images; and

7 associating said representative with said individual video frame of said
8 video collage template.

1 4. The method of Claim 1, further including the step of:
2 providing a video segment template, wherein said video segment template
3 contains a plurality of representative images, wherein each representative image is
4 associated with one of said plurality of video segments; and,
5 wherein said step of associating a video segment includes associating a
6 representative image from said plurality of representative images with said
7 individual video frame of said video collage template.

1 5. The method of Claim 1, wherein said step of segmenting said video
2 includes segmenting said video into a selected number of segments.

1 6. The method of Claim 1, wherein said step of segmenting said video
2 includes segmenting said video using a Genetic Segmentation Algorithm ("GSA").

1 7. The method of Claim 1 further including the step of compacting said
2 associated video segment.

1 8. The method of Claim 7 wherein said step of compacting includes the steps
2 of:
3 assigning an importance value to said video segment;
4 assigning a feature vector to said video segment; and,
5 truncating a portion of said video segment based on said importance value
6 and said feature vector.

1 9. The method of Claim 8 wherein the importance value relates to a size of
2 said individual video frame with which said video segment is associated.

1 10. The method of Claim 8 wherein the feature vector relates to a content
2 activity of said video segment.

1 11. A video collage, comprising:
2 a video collage template having at least one individual video frame; and,
3 a representative image associated with a video segment, wherein said
4 representative image is contained in said at least one individual video frame.

1 12. The video collage of Claim 11, wherein said video segment associated with
2 said representative image may be viewed by selecting said representative image.

1 13. The video collage of Claim 11, wherein said video collage has a plurality
2 of individual video frames, and wherein said plurality of individual video frames

3 each contain a representative image, wherein each representative image is
4 associated with a video segment.

1 14. The video collage of Claim 11, wherein said representative image is
2 assigned an importance value based on a size of said individual video frame in
3 which said representative image is contained.

1 15. The video collage of Claim 14, wherein a length of said video segment
2 associated with said representative image is reduced based on said importance
3 value.

1 16. The video collage of Claim 11, wherein said representative image is
2 associated with a feature vector.

1 17. The video collage of Claim 16, wherein a value of said feature vector is
2 determined based on a size of said individual video frame and a content activity of
3 said associated video segment.

1 18. The video collage of Claim 16, wherein a length of said representative
2 image is reduced based on a value of said feature vector.

1 19. A video collage user interface, comprising:
2 a video collage template having at least one individual video frame;

3 a video segment template including a plurality of representative images,
4 wherein each representative image is associated with a video segment; and,
5 a video segment selection device.

1 20. The video collage user interface of Claim 19, wherein said video segment
2 selection device is used for selecting a representative image and inserting said
3 selected representative image into said at least one individual video frame.

1 21. An apparatus for producing a video collage, comprising:
2 a processor; and
3 a processor readable storage medium in communication with said
4 processor, containing processor readable program code for programming the
5 apparatus to:
6 segment a video into a plurality of video segments;
7 provide a video collage template having at least one individual
8 video frame;
9 associate a video segment from said plurality of video segments
10 with said individual video frame of said video collage template; and,
11 produce a video collage from said video collage template and said
12 associated video segment.

1 22. The apparatus of Claim 21, wherein said processor readable program code
2 for programming the apparatus to associate a video segment from said plurality of

3 video segments includes processor readable program code for programming the
4 apparatus to:

5 select a plurality of video segments from said plurality of video segments;

6 and,

7 associate said selected plurality of video segments with a respective
8 individual video frame of said video collage template.

1 23. The apparatus of Claim 21, wherein said processor readable program code
2 for programming the apparatus to segment a video includes processor readable
3 program code for programming the apparatus to:

4 segment said video into a selected number of segments.

1 24. The apparatus of Claim 21, wherein said processor readable program code
2 for programming the apparatus to segment a video includes processor readable
3 program code for programming said apparatus to:

4 segment said video using a Genetic Segmentation Algorithm ("GSA").

1 25. The apparatus of Claim 21 further including processor readable program
2 code for programming said apparatus to:

3 compact said associated video segment.

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- 1 26. The apparatus of Claim 25 wherein said processor readable program code
2 for programming said apparatus to compact said associated video segment includes
3 processor readable program code for programming said apparatus to:
4 assign an importance value to said associated video segment;
5 assign a feature vector to said associated video segment; and,
6 truncate a portion of said associated video segment based on said
7 importance value and said feature vector.

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